

PRESS RELEASE

August 25, 2006

RE: UNITED STATES V. DAVID PEROZZI

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced today that David Perozzi, 52, of Oakfield, New York, pled guilty today to distributing child pornography.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti said the defendant admitted to U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara that he had distributed images and videos of child pornography through the Internet using WinMX file sharing software. Grisanti said that when agents arrived at the defendant's house to execute a search warrant, the defendant used a wiping program in an effort to destroy the child pornography on his computer. Despite these actions, an examination of Perozzi's computer showed that he possessed approximately 1,000 images and 15 movies of child pornography.

U.S. Attorney Flynn said that this investigation was part of a nationwide and international investigation involving the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). An ICE agent, working undercover, accessed child pornography from Perozzi's computer through the use of a private Internet chat room. Perozzi used the screen name "A School Teacher" in that chatroom. At the time of Perozzi's arrest, he was a Sunday School teacher.

Flynn said 13 persons have been charged in Illinois, Tennessee, Michigan, Nevada,

Florida, New York, Arizona, and Hawaii as a result of the investigation, and that 14 others are charged in Canada, Australia, and Great Britain.

Flynn said that as part of the plea, Perozzi is required to forfeit fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00) in lieu of forfeiture of his residence. "The federal government was able to move quickly and decisively against the assets that the defendant used to perpetrate his illegal conduct. This action should serve as a strong message to all others in our community who are involved in child pornography or exploitation of our children. My message is simple, the federal government will come after you and your assets swiftly and fervently if you choose to use your property to commit these crimes."

Perozzi faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, plus a \$250,000 fine. The guilty plea was the result of an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent-in-Charge Peter J. Smith.

Judge Arcara will impose sentence on December 15 , 2006, at 12:30 p.m.